

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 116286

EXDIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT ASMARA 421 ACTION ADDIS ABABA ATHENS
KHARTOUM INFO SECSTATE 3 JUN.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0421

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, CASC, ET

SUBJECT: TENNECO SEVEN

REF: A. ADDIS 6162

B. STATE 115637

C. ASMARA 420

D. KHARTOUM 1245

1. IT APPEARS FROM REF C AND OTHER LOCAL INFORMATION THAT
RELEASE OF HOSTAGES COMPLICATED BY POWER STRUGGLE BETWEEN
ELF AND PLF FACTIONS. BOTH FACTIONS OF THE ELF BELIEVE A
RANSOM IS TO BE PAID AND ARE CONCERNED OVER WHICH
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GROUP WILL RECEIVE ALL OR PART OF IT. IF RADICAL

ELEMENT, WHO WE BELIEVE TO BE HOLDING HOSTAGES RECEIVES MONEY, IT WILL LIKELY INCREASE ITS ARMAMENT AND INITIATE TERRORIST INCIDENTS TO THE DETRIMENT OF THE GENERAL COMMAND. CHINESE OR POSSIBLY NORTH KOREANS ARE REPORTED TO BE INVOLVED WITH RADICAL GROUP. WHILE ZEIN MAY DESIRE QUICK RELEASE OF HOSTAGES, ESPECIALLY THE NURSE, FACTIONAL DIVISIONS MAY HAMPER THIS COURSE.

2. MISSIONARIES FEEL THAT IF RANSOM HAS BEEN PROMISED IT MUST BE PAID IN ACCORD WITH MUSLIM CODE. IN THAT CASE, THEY WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN RELEASE OF NURSE EARLIER, PRIOR TO PAYMENT OF RANSOM SO NOT TO CONNECT THEM WITH RANSOM. IF NURSE RELEASE WAS TIED INTO RANSOM, MISSIONARIES DO NOT FEEL THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO OPERATE IN FUTURE. AN UNCONDITIONAL RANSOM WOULD LEAVE AN OPEN SEASON ON ALL AMERICANS. PER REF D, TRY TO CONVINCE ZEIN TO RELEASE GRANT AND DEBBIE AS A SHOW OF GOOD FAITH. HIS SUCCESS IN THE ACT WILL SHOW HIS CONTROL AND THAT OF THE LEADER IN WESTERN ERITREA OVER WHOLE SITUATION.

3. PER REF D PARA 2. MISSIONARIES BELIEVES ALL 7 HOSTAGES LOCATED ABOUT 15 KMS OUTSIDE OF AGORDAT. PARA 4C. MISSIONAIRES AND CONGEN DON'T BELIEVE IEG WILL RELEASE POLITICAL PRISONERS. THERE IS HEAVY PUBLIC OUTCRY AGAINST KIDNAP OF DEBBIE. THIS SHOULD BE STRESSED IN NEGOTIATIONS.
PERRY UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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